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STAT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Phone: (703) 482-7676

3 June 1986

STAT

Mr. Leslie Gelb
THE NEW YORK TIMES
1000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Les:

Re your article in the 2 June NEW YORK TIMES, attached is a chronology of publicized intelligence on the so-called "Libyan bombing." As is obvious, President Reagan was not, as you and other journalists have asserted, the original source of information on this subject. The media have misled the American people on this matter.

Secondly, you assert that, "In late 1985, the Central Intelligence Agency made a determined effort to tell reporters details about their interrogation of Vitaly S. Yurchenko, a key Soviet intelligence agent who apparently defected and then slipped out of American control and returned to Moscow. The CIA told its side, as some of its officials acknowledged at the time, to show that he had been a valuable informer, contrary to White House assertions of his uselessness."

The fact is that CIA said nothing at all about Yurchenko in other than classified hearings or meetings until he redefected. I don't understand what you are getting at. Enlighten me.

Sincerely,

STAT

George V. Lauder

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